we have already been doing it. We have also been highlighting it through TV. Hon. Member might have seen this on the TV. Publicity through other media is also given.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, we have worked out a certain arrangement for the purpose. There are a few fortunate people who go abroad, but why is it necessary that those who are fortunate to go abroad are allowed to bring goods from outside which are also available in the country? My question, therefore, is, why is it that we are not imposing a total ban on impart as passenger's baggake? In the case of someone who has been resident there for more than three years and he has accumulated certain goods, he may be allowed to import these thing. Otherwise, it should be discouraged totally because of the very difficult foreign exchange situation and because of the need to fight increasing fascination for foreign goods. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: The hon. Member has put a very pertinent question. We cannot totally ban it. The policy of the Government is to restrict it. As the hon. Member knows, the restriction is to the extent of 170 per cent duty for the first slab and for the next slab it is 240 per cent duty. So, heavy duty is imposed but the people are still bringing the goods. The thinking fo the Government or the policy of the Government is to discourage it. It is also the policy of the Government to promote the use of indigenous products. However, your suggestion is noted.

SHRI THANGABAALU: There are groups employing carriers to get TV, VCR and other electronic goods from other countries. They are in collusion with the customs officials. It is well proved. Recently there was a statement in the papers that the houses of big customs officials were raided and a lot of unaccounted money, jewellery, and imported items were found from their houses. It is clear that they are in collusion with the carriers so that they are in a position to bring VCRs/T.Vs and other goods and sell them in the market at a very high profit. Will the Government inform the House as to how many officers have been punished in the past three years, or what action is being taken against them?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: It is an ongoing process and the exact figure I do not know.

SHRI P.N. SUKUL: He wanted the figures during the last three years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He hasn't got the figures.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the goods which are seized by the customs are sold subsequently through various governmental agencies or through cooperatives. The craze for the foreign goods, therefore, continuance unabated. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether instead of selling those sets through public agencies these would be sent back to the countries of their origin.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: So far the practice is that we have been selling the goods through public agencies. After all, it will be the asset of the nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Say that you have noted the suggestion. Next question.

Change in Import Policy on TPA

*322. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:†
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the leakage of the information regarding revision of import policy on Terephthalic Acid (TPA), the main raw material for producing polyester

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Biswa Goswami.

yarn, some firms/companies have imported huge quantity of TPA for their polyester yarn factories in Maharashtra and Gujarat before the order in this regard came into force;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have investigated into the serious lapses on the part of the officials in his Ministry who had leaked out the information; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the findings and the action taken?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The item 'TPA' was shifted from OGL to Limited Permissible List *vide* Public Notice No. 7-ITC(PN)/85—88 dated 29-5-1985 Letters of Credit were opened by a certain firm for import of 1,14,000 tonnes of TPA before 29th May, 1985 but since the Public Notice allowed only such quantities as could be shipped within 90 days of the said Notice, the actual import of TPA by the said firm was limited to only 1000 tonnes.

There were reports alleging leakage of the policy. Government has handed over the cases to Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Sir, the hon. Minister has not answered my question. I wanted to know whether due to the leakage of the order of shifting TPA from OGL some companies imported huge quantity of TPA prior to the coming into force of the order. I have not received a reply to this question.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: The question was that the firm had imported huge quantities of TPA for their polyester yarn factories in Maharashtra and Gujarat before the Order in this regard came into force. The point is the Order came into force on 29th May, 1985. 'Before that' means I thought that he felt merely in the vicinity and that is why I have answered that. 'Before that' could be one year or any number of years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It really means one the eve of it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It is exactly that. It is on that basis I have given the answer—14,000 tonnes. 1,14,000 tonnes was registered for which the letter of credit was open out of which 14,000 was shipped within 90 days of the notification.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: The honourable Minister has admitted that there was leakage...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, he has not admitted there is a leakage. He has stated that somebody imported...

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: There were reports and the Government has handed over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation. So the Government has admitted that there was leakage. I wanted to know whether it is due to the leakage that some companies particularly the Reliance Textile Industries Limited, have imported huge quantities of TPA and they have undermined the Order. It is a fact or not? I also want to know what the findings of the CBI are.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: There were allegations of leakage and on that basis the Finance Ministry referred the matter to the CBI. The CBI has not been able to complete its investigations so far. But with respect to what has been imported, I

have given the figures. It is a matter for him to consider whether it is higher or lower.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Still I have not got the answer. However, I want to know from the Minister whether it is a fact that due to the increase in the duty on TPA by 50 per cent, no import of TPA took place during May to December, 1985.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I do not have the figures at this stage for the period May to December, 1985. I shall place it on the Table of the House. It will be by different parties, various parties and it is not possible for me to put down exactly what the figure is.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : श्रीमन, यह जिस तरह का मामला है, मुझे खुशी है कि सी०बी०आई० की जांच माननीय मंत्री जी करा रहे हैं । ऐसे मामले पहले भी हुए हैं । मैं, श्रीमन, आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन भी करना चाहता हूं और जानकारी चाहता हूं कि ऐसे बिजनेस हाउसेज हैं, इस मुल्क में ऐसे-ऐसे लोग है जो दस साल पहले कुछ भी नहीं थे और आज तीसरे चौथे नम्बर के लोग हो गये हैं, बिना किसी चीज को पैदा किये हुए । उन्होंने केवल नीतियों में लीकेज मालूम किया और उससे फायदा उठाया । इस तरह का एक आदमी ने जनता सरकार के दौरान मामला किया था । तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि पोलिएस्टर धागे और उससे संबंधित कमर्शियल मामले जो पिछले दस साल तक हुए हैं या जो भी शिकायतें हैं क्या सरकार का उसका कम्प्रेहेंसिव जांच करने का इरादा है ?

श्री पी० शिव शंकर : अगर कोई शिकायतें हमारे सामने लाये तो बराबर उसकी जांच करायेंगे । ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है कि शिकायतों की जांच न हो ।

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : गुजरात के कुछ व्यापारियों ने जनता सरकार के दौरान इस तरह की हरकतें की थी और यह तमाम अखबारों में भी छपी थी । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से चाहूंगा कि पिछले दस सालों में जहां जहां लीकेज हुआ है, उसकी जांच करायें ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you information with regard to the last ten years?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: My submission is if you want that matters which took place about seven to eight years back, we should start them at this stage that is a matter which has to be gone into, whether legal possibilities would be there or not. That is also a question which has to be gone into.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: The first point is a suggestion. Since he will be retiring, all the information on the CBI report should be sent after he retires.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I am prepared to write to him even after his retirement.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Does the gamut of the CBI enquiry cover the level of the Ministry also? That is my question.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Obviously, Sir.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: Sir, I want to know what precisely was the reason for giving this 90 days' grace in the public notice?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It is only for this purpose, supposing there is a change in the policy, a notice is to be issued and within 90 days. It is possible that many a party might have already placed their orders. So, in order to facilitate them for getting their goods, this 90 days' tenure has been fixed.